

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed on April 24, 2002, claims 8-12 of the above-referenced patent application stand rejected as allegedly being anticipated by the Lazar et al. reference. In the office action, it is noted that no patentable weight was attributed to any of the claim limitations of claims 8-12 that are recited as operations performed by the processor. As suggested by the Examiner, claim 8 has been amended to more particularly recite that the processor is operatively coupled to computer readable media which is encoded with instructions to perform the recited processor operations. In view of the foregoing amendment to claim 8, it is respectfully submitted that claims 8-12 define patentable subject matter over the art of record.

In view of the foregoing, entry of the amendment and favorable consideration of claims 8-12 is respectfully solicited. If for any reason the application is not considered in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned in an effort to advance the prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION OF CLAIMS SHOWING CHANGES MADE

8. A network computer server system for controlling a plurality of network access lines to provide subscriber access to a computer network, the server system comprising:

an access line interface for partitioning the plurality of network access lines as first stage lines and second stage lines:

a processor operatively coupled to the access line interface, the processor being operatively coupled to computer readable media encoded with instructions to perform the steps of: [;]

determining an available number of second stage lines;

queuing arriving subscribers bidding for network access in the first stage lines and periodically admitting at least a portion of the arriving subscribers into the second stage lines based on respective bid amounts and the availability of second stage lines;

determining a spot price of the resource based on at least one arrival subscriber not admitted;

determining a reservation fee for secured access to the network for the admitted subscribers to secure future network access at a given bid price;

determining whether a subscriber has accepted the reservation fee and controlling the access line interface to operatively couple that subscriber to the network via a second stage line as a reserved subscriber;

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determining whether a subscriber has rejected the reservation fee and controlling the access line interface to operatively coupled that subscriber to the network via a second stage line as an unreserved subscriber;

controlling the access line interface to disconnect from the network non-reserved subscribers whose bid prices are below the spot price; and

activating a reservation of reserved subscribers whose bid price is below the spot price, and controlling the access line interface to maintain network access for the reserved subscriber for a duration of the reservation; and

a memory device operatively coupled to the processor, the memory device for storing a data base of subscriber account data.